\mathcal{C}^2

pharmaceutical composition can be administered at a dose of $0.1 \,\mu\text{g/kg/min}$ to $0.2 \,\mu\text{g/kg/min}$, and is preferably administered in a dose of $0.025 \,\mu\text{g/kg/min}$ to $0.1 \,\mu\text{g/kg/min}$, by the continuous intravenous route. When the administration is made by coronary infusion, a higher dose of the active ingredient can be administered than in the case of an intravenous administration.

In the Claims:

Please replace claims 1, 3, 6, and 8 with the following amended claims. A version of the claims reciting the revisions is attached herewith in Attachment B.

- 1. (Twice Amended) A pharmaceutical composition for use in treatment or prophylaxis of ischemic heart disease, the pharmaceutical composition comprising a substance, as an active ingredient, which can increase intracellular cyclic guanosine 3',5'-monophosphate (cGMP) production by acting on a natriuretic peptide receptor, and which has an effect of reducing an infarct region.
- -3. (Amended) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 1, wherein the ischemic
 - (Amended) A method of treatment or prophylaxis of ischemic heart disease, comprising administering to a patient who is in need of such a treatment or prophylaxis a substance, as an active ingredient, which can increase intracellular cyclic guanosine 3',5'-monophosphate (cGMP) production by acting on a natriuretic peptide receptor, and which has an effect of reducing an infarct region, before the initiation of, during and/or following to ischemia reperfusion therapy.
- Myocardial infarction.--

Please add the following new claims 11-16:

--11. (Added) A method for reducing an infarct region or suppressing enlargement

of an infarct region in the heart of a patient who is suffering from or has a potential risk of suffering from infarct resulting from ischemic necrosis as an ischemia reperfusion injury, wherein said method comprises:

administering a substance capable of acting on a natriuretic peptide receptor to increase the production of cellular cyclic guanosine 3',5'-monophosphate (cGMP), at an amount effective for reducing the infarct region or suppressing enlargement of an infarct region to said patient before the initiation of, during and/or following ischemia reperfusion.--

- --12. (Added) A method of claim 11, wherein the active ingredient is a natriuretic peptide selected from the group consisting of atrial natriuretic peptide (ANP), brain natriuretic peptide (BNP) and C-type natriuretic peptide (CNP).--
- --13. (Added) A method of claim 12, wherein the active ingredient is administered at a dose between 0.01 μg/kg/ml and 0.2 μg/kg/ml by continuous infusion.--
- --14. (Added) A method of claim 13, wherein the active ingredient is administered at a dose between 0.025 μg/kg/ml and 0.1 μg/kg/ml.--
- --15. (Added) A method of any one of claims 12, 13 and 14, wherein the infusion is made by an intravenous injection.--
- --16. (Added) A method by any one of claims 12, 13 and 14, wherein the infusion is made by a coronary injection.--

Remarks

Upon entry of the above amendments, claims 1-16 are pending in the application-claims 1, 3, 6, and 8 having been amended and claims 11-16 having been added.